



# NEWSletter IV



Co-financed by ERDF through the INTERREG IVC programme

06/2010

Issue IV **EN**

## Key data

- **Project reference:**  
0006R1MORE4NRG
- **Total budget:**  
1.326.559 euros
- **EU contribution:**  
1.032.084,95 euros
- **Duration:**  
21.09.2008 -21.09.2011  
(36 months)



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## The workshop "Boosting green growth: What regions can do" was held on 25 March in Brussels in the EUSEW

On the occasion of the European Sustainable Energy Week (EUSEW), the partners of the MORE4NRG Project organised a workshop, which was held on 25 March at the Valencian Regional Office in Brussels. The workshop aroused great interest and was attended by 42 participants.

The Director General of the Valencian Regional Office in Brussels, Mr. Juan Manuel Revuelta, was in charge of the event's welcome and opening remarks. Following the introduction, Mrs. Jacki Davis went on to chair and drive the workshop with the participation of the attendants. Mrs. Davis gave the floor to the Project Manager in the Province of Flevoland (NL), Mrs. Karin Maatje, who briefly described in a simple manner the MORE4NRG project and why regional governments need to be involved in the promotion of sustainable energy. Furthermore, she evoked the signing of the Declaration of the European regions for the development of energy efficiency and renewable energy sources in 2006 at the initiative of the AER/Fedarene.



### In order to achieve its objectives

The MORE4NRG project aims to contribute to the strengthening of regional strategies on this subject by means of the activities carried out by the consortium: Peer reviews, Regional Action Plans, Collection of Best Practices, Exchange of Best Practices, Tool-kit (including monitoring tool), Cooperation and Communication.



After Karin Maatje's intervention, the floor was given to Mr. Herman Vermeer, entrepreneur and investor in sustainable energy, who started off by mentioning the top three areas to invest in, which should be considered by any entrepreneur: modern agriculture, new services and sustainable energy. He went on describing, from his know-how, the requirements that need to be fulfilled by regional governments, as well as they how can play an active role in this matter by cooperating jointly.

The last speakers to intervene were Justyna Podralska, Policy coordinator Assembly of European Regions (AER), Belén Romero Pastor, Energy Expert of the Instituto de Tecnología Eléctrica-ITE (ES) and Veleslava Abadzhieva, Chair Management Board Euro Perspectives Foundation (BG), who, by describing the peer review energy experience of Gabrovo, provided a practical view on how regions can help each other to strengthen their growth. Finally, there was a round of questions during which the debate started by Mrs. Jacki Davis was rather animated.

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## “How can organisations be encouraged to invest in renewable energy?”

On 25 March, five students of the executive MBA of Windesheim University Zwolle (NL) presented the results of their thesis carried out within the framework of MORE4NRG. The presentation was given in the House of the Dutch provinces in Brussels during the Sustainable Energy Week.

The students performed theoretical and empirical research to answer the question on how organisations can be stimulated to invest more in sustainable energy.

Mike Smink on behalf of his fellow students presented the main conclusions of their thesis. And during their presentation, not only did they explain the methodology of the study to approach the subject matter (“How can organisations be encouraged to invest in renewable energy?”), but they also put forward three further questions:



1. Which information is necessary in order to decide on investing and how should this information become available?
2. Are the facilities of the (international) banking institutions sufficient to stimulate investments in renewable energy?
3. Do the facilities of the government fit the requirements of the targeted investors?

In order to find an answer to the above mentioned questions, in-depth interviews were held with stakeholders: energy companies, the European Investment Bank, local entrepreneurs and many more. The overview research, however, was held in the province of Flevoland.

After providing answers and inferences to the questions resulting from the interviews, the conclusion reached was that “Money follows Governance”. Therefore, the following general recommendations were made:

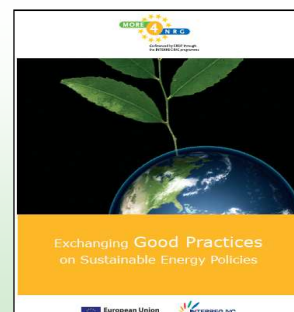
- Change short-term perspective to long-term perspective.
- Uniform information.
- Alignment of province with municipal government.
- Stimulate both big and small projects.
- Lobby for unified European approach.
- Share of best practices (less what/more how).



All results were reported to Anne Blik, Deputy Queen’s Commissioner for the Province of Flevoland and Chair of the MORE4NRG monitoring board, who was in charge of running the event.

### The brochure “Exchanging Good Practices on Sustainable Energy Policies” is available at [www.more4nrg.eu](http://www.more4nrg.eu)

Last January, the first Project brochure intended for the general public was edited. The brochure describes in a simple manner the MORE4NRG project, as well as 7 best practices carried out by the different partners, out of the 24 best practices included in the catalogue created in November 2009.



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## The MORE4NRG consortium met in Brussels on 25 and 26 March for Monitoring Board 3 and Steering Committee 4 of the Project.

Since the project was about half way, the combined Monitoring Board and Steering Committee meeting was a good occasion to look back at what we have reached so far and to review the remaining MORE4NRG goals and activities.

During the meetings, held on 25 and 26 March in Brussels, the partners were informed that the initial communication provisions were met: the project website has exceeded 1800 visitors per month and the number of press releases and publications has already exceeded the total project objective.

When the actions carried out until now were evaluated, it was concluded that better coordination in the peer review reports was required. This includes the collection of all the recommendations of the peer review partners and the drafting of the final report.

Also, the catalogue containing 24 good practices on sustainable energy and energy efficiency was presented. The next step is to successfully exchange ten of these good practice and share them with the stakeholders in the regions.

Another aim of MORE4NRG is to improve 11 regional policies on sustainable energy (e.g. in all partner regions, except for the AER). It was agreed that the partners will make a draft proposal on how to improve their regional policy before the next meeting in October.



For the next working period (March until October), two more peer reviews will be carried out and the 3 peer review regions where the peer reviews have been finished, will work on their regional action plans.

### Partners Region Short Description

#### Patras Science Park – Western Greece Region

Is a region from the northwest part of the Peloponnese, with 11.350km<sup>2</sup> and a population of 753.267 inhabitants.

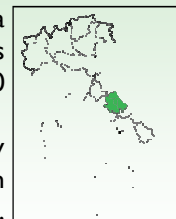
Patras Science Park is an organisation of which the main aim is to provide, and develop the appropriate infrastructures that will support the creation of “innovative” firms through incubation and spin-off processes.



#### Region Abruzzo

Is a region in Italy with 10.794km<sup>2</sup> and a population of 1.332.536 inhabitants. It's in the western part and lies less than 50 miles due east Rome.

The foundations for an energy policy based on the development of clean renewable sources (wind, photovoltaic, solar, biomass, hydrogen) have been laid down at regional level.



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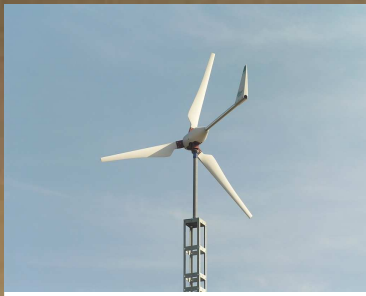
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## **Events**

- Peer Review in Western Greece: June 2010
- Peer Review in Abruzzo: June 2010

## **Contact details**

### **Bob Pels**

**Programma Manager**  
European Territorial  
Cooperation

Phone:

+ 31 (0)320 265 474

Mobile:

+ 31 (0) 618 303 923

e-mail:

bob.pels@flevoland.nl

### **Karin Maatje**

**Project Manager**  
**Interreg**

Phone:

+ 31 (0)320 265 745

Mobile:

+ 31 (0)6 627 588 737

e-mail:

karin.maatje@flevoland.nl

### **Province of Flevoland**

Programme Management  
Europe

P.O.Box 55

NL-8200 AB Lelystad

## **Prahova Peer Review**

# **Energy audit in Prahova: 3<sup>rd</sup> MORE4NRG PEER REVIEW**

The third energy audit of the MORE4NRG project was organised in December 2009 in the region of Prahova (RO). Over four days, the experts from Valencia (E) and Lazio regions (I), along with AER representatives, advised county authorities on meeting sustainable energy needs with the establishment of a reliable, comprehensive and dynamic energy strategy.

Sunshine and hydro-resources can provide an abundance of green energy in Prahova. The region starts to capture some of this potential; but it still encounters some difficulties when it comes to introducing renewable energy source technologies. Some successful projects - such as the PV central station in the town of Cornu and the Florești gym equipped with solar roof panels - are already in place.



But there is still no overall action plan to promote investment in the sector of low-carbon energy. Support mechanisms, payback periods, grid connection and energy efficiency measures were some of the issues analysed by the expert team. Together with members of the Ploiești energy agency, which was set up under the Intelligent Energy Europe program, MORE4NRG experts visited several regional solar power installations and small hydropower plants. They also interviewed representatives of government, academia, environmental NGOs, the chamber of commerce, energy providers and local investors.



Their suggestions will help Prahova deliver a successful energy strategy. This document should be quickly supported by an appropriate action plan and regularly updated so that it rightly depicts fluctuating trends of the energy market.

## **MORE4NRG and RENREN working together**

The kick-off meeting of RENREN (Renewable Energy REgions Network) took place on 29th April. RENREN is a new INTERREG IVC project on renewable energy. Since MORE4NRG and RENREN have quite similar objectives, the partners of both projects have decided to work together on different levels. We will, among other things, cooperate on communication issues, organise a dissemination event together and make use of each other's best practices.



The RENREN project runs from 2010 till 2012 and has 14 international partners. The project aims to identify policy choices to improve regional frameworks for renewable energy expansion. As MORE4NRG, RENREN wants to strengthen the role of the regions in promoting green growth. The project is organised around three 'technology families': wind, ocean and hydropower; geothermal and biomass; solar thermal and photovoltaic. More information can be found on [www.renren-project.eu](http://www.renren-project.eu)

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